

Male and female *Epitonium albidum* attain larger sizes in the British Virgin Islands than at Barbados.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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CHICOREUS (CHICOMUREX) TURSCHI, A NEW MURICIDAE FROM NEW GUINEA

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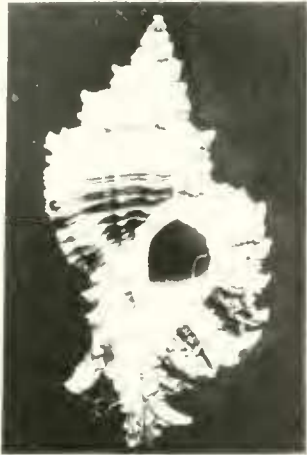
Chicoreus (Chicomurex) turschi n. sp.
(Figs. 1-6)

Description: Shell small for the subgenus, small. Size variable, from 28 to 40 mm in adult specimens. Spire moderately high. Color gener-

ally cream with 3 brown bands on varices of the last whorl; the first one immediately under the shoulder of the body whorl, the third one on the lower part of the varices, the second one situated between these two, generally closer to the

(see opposite page)

FIGS. 1-3. *Chicoreus (Chicomurex) turschi* R. Houart sp. nov. Holotype I.R.S.N.B. no. 374, 30 mm. 3, Paratype, R. Houart coll. 4, Paratype I.R.S.N.B. no. 375, 24.2 mm. 4, Protoconch and first whorls (same specimen as fig. 4). 6, Protoconch and first whorls (same specimen as fig. 4). 7, *Chicoreus (Chicomurex) venustus* Rehder & Wilson, 1975. Holotype USNM 707241, ×2. 8, Protoconch and first whorls (same specimen as fig. 7). USNM 707245, ×10. 9, Reproduction of protoconch after figure 8.



1



2



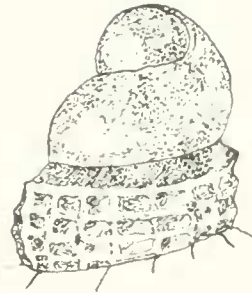
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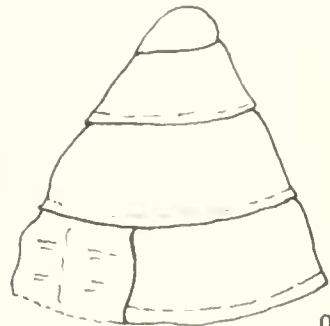
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8



9

third one. These brown bands sometimes extended on to the body whorl; coloration sometimes present on the first whorls but almost invisible. Brown spots most apparent on the suture of the whorls. Completely orange or albino examples known.

Aperture bluish white and oval, slightly angular; anal notch well-delimited; columellar lip adherent to the shell posteriorly and detached below; 3 or 4 little denticles on the anterior end and many fine folds on the posterior end with a more apparent denticle, delimiting the anal notch; color white. Outer apertural lip finely crenulated; interior of the outer lip entirely spirally ridged. Operculum muricine with an apical nucleus.

Spire consisting of one and one-half nuclear whorl, glossy and smooth and 6 or 7 postnuclear whorls. From the first whorl 3 varices and 3 or 4 axial costae, changing on the last whorl to one very prominent axial node and a smaller secondary one.

Spiral sculpture of body whorl consisting of 7 or 8 principal ridges; generally not too scabrous and flanked on each side by 1 or 2 finer and scabrous cords. A fine spiral cord also situated between these ridges. These ridges extended on to the varices, very scabrous especially on the adapertural side where there are crowded lamellae. On the varices, spiral ridges producing short open spines, slightly recurved and most visible on the body whorl. These spines are longest on the shoulder and on anterior part of the last whorl where they are flanged. Siphonal canal open, moderately long for the subgenus and slightly recurved on the end; ornamented with 3 or 4 ridges, producing short open spines, slightly posteriorly recurved. Holotype 30 mm in length; 16 mm in width.

Type material: Holotype (in the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique in Brussels) I.R.S.N.B. no. 374; 3 paratypes I.R.S.N.B. no. 375; 2 paratypes Brit. Mus. (N.H.) 198089; 2 paratypes Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 196023 & 196024; 2 paratypes United States Nat. Mus. 784589; 2 paratypes Houart collection. All from the type locality.

Type locality: Hansa bay, Papua New Guinea, off Durangit, 45-60 m, with sponges. Para-

types also from Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.

This shell may be compared with *Chicomurex venustus* Rehder & Wilson. Three important differences separate them:

1) *Ch. turschi* has a much more fusiform shell, much more slender, and, in most cases, smaller.

2) *Ch. venustus* has a conical carinate protoconch consisting of three and one-half whorls. *Ch. turschi* has a convex protoconch, glossy and smooth, consisting of one and one-half whorl and never carinate.

3) *Ch. venustus* has stronger lirations on the columellar lip. *Ch. turschi* always has a smooth columellar lip, except for the fine posterior folds and 2 or 3 anteriorly denticles.

The color, if not important, also separates the two species: rose or orange in *Ch. venustus*; brown and white in *Ch. turschi* (somewhat as in *Naquetia*) although the latter may be rarely solid orange or albino.

It is a great pleasure to name this shell in honor of Professor Ben Tursch who so kindly let me examine all the specimens of this new species and other members of the family Muricidae.

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